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**LETTER REPORT  
FOR  
MOSCHIANO PLATING FACILITY SITE  
CHICAGO, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
TDD: S05-9708-003  
PAN: 7G0301RZXX**

I1  
9/30/97

**September 30, 1997**

**Prepared for:**

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Emergency and Enforcement Response Branch  
77 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, Illinois, 60604**

Prepared by: Steven J. Skare Date: 9/30/97  
Steven Skare, START Project Manager

Reviewed by: Mary Jane Ripp Date: 9/30/97  
for Mary Jane Ripp, Assistant START Program Manager

Approved by: Thomas Kouris Date: 9/30/97  
Thomas Kouris, START Program Manager



International Specialists in the Environment

33 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60602  
Tel. 312/578-9243, Fax: 312/578-9345

September 30, 1997

Ms. Gail Nabasny, START Project Officer  
Emergency Support Section  
United States Environmental Protection Agency  
77 West Jackson Boulevard - HSE-5J  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Re: Moschiano Plating Facility Site  
Chicago, Cook County, Illinois  
TDD: S05-9708-003  
PAN: 7G0301RZXX

Dear Ms. Nabasny:

The Emergency and Enforcement Response Branch (EERB) of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) tasked the Ecology and Environment, Inc. (E & E) Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START), under Technical Direction Document (TDD) S05-9708-003, to assist U.S. EPA with emergency response actions relating to a chemical release/spill at the Moschiano Plating Facility (MPF) site in Cook County, Illinois. The site is a plating facility located at 2808 West Lake Street in the City of Chicago (Figure 1). MPF is bordered by Lake Street to the south; Mozart Street to the west; an abandoned building to the east; and a residential yard to the north.

On Friday, August 1, 1997, START was requested to provide emergency response support to U.S. EPA for a chemical spill at the site. After preparing a site-specific health and safety plan (HASP), START members Steve Skare and Donovan Robin went to the E & E warehouse, collected the appropriate response equipment, and mobilized to the MPF site. START arrived on site at approximately 1500 hours, where they met On Site Coordinators (OSC) Reiniero (Rey) Rivera and Steve Faryan of U.S. EPA; Gregory Yarnik of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD); Joe Schussler of the Chicago Department of the Environment (CDOE); and Jim Clark of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA).

At 1510 hours, START began a preliminary site assessment and began photodocumenting the site. It was immediately noticed that the roof of the building had partially collapsed and that several of the windows were broken. The roof cave-in was later found to have caused the release. In response to the potential hazard, MWRD Yarnik had ordered that the front door to the facility be padlocked shut. The rear dock and the main floor of the facility were flooded as a result of a broken water main inside the facility. It is believed that the main was broken during the roof collapse. Also, CDOE Schussler arranged to have the windows and the front entrance to the facility boarded shut. Flooding of the loading dock was observed outside the building. The water from the flooded loading dock was tested and to be of neutral pH (pH reading of 7 standard units). None of the plating lines appeared to be broken during the initial survey/reconnaissance.

MWRD Yarnik informed START that he had entered the building earlier and had photodocumented the facility. During his reconnaissance, he had not noticed any solvents, above ground storage tanks (ASTs), or product treatment lines. However, he had identified two plating areas; several product lines; and 20 to 30 vats, containing an estimated 3000 to 4000 gallons of various liquids. During his investigation, MWRD Yarnik also discovered a chemical storage area near the location of the collapsed roof. He said that the combination of the roof collapse and poor lighting, would make collecting samples in that area difficult. MWRD Yarnik also informed START that MWRD had obtained a schematic drawing of the building. This drawing indicated that the building contained vats and plating lines containing nickel, chrome, copper, cyanide, and zinc, as well as miscellaneous liquids. The drawing also revealed the likelihood of encountering various acids, bases, and mineral salts; dry cyanide; and miscellaneous solids during the reconnaissance.

START Skare initiated air monitoring activities at 1525 hours, with a photoionization detector (PID) and hydrogen cyanide monitor (HCN monitor). Background readings were recorded at 1.0 to 1.2 parts per million (ppm) and 0.0 ppm on the HCN monitor and PID, respectively. These readings were collected at 1530 hours.

At approximately 1535 hours, START entered the MPF building to conduct a site reconnaissance, and to identify potential sample locations. START donned Level D personal protective equipment (PPE) which was upgraded to provide additional skin protection. During this phase of the reconnaissance, START identified approximately 50 process tanks, various plating lines, and approximately 50 drums and buckets. The vats were all of open-top construction, and were accessible by a wooden catwalk. Of the drums identified, one was labelled "AKZO Paint," while the others were either labelled "Caustic," "Flammable," or "Copper." Standing water was observed on the floor near the collapsed roof/chemical storage area. A green sludge-like material (suspected nickel sludge) was observed on the floor in various areas. A floor drain in the center of the building, was targeted for sampling, since run-off water was observed entering the drain, which leads to the MWRD sanitary sewer. No air quality readings above background levels were detected during the reconnaissance on either the HCN monitor or PID. A building layout map is presented as Figure 2. Photographs collected by START Skare have been included in the Site Assessment Report (TDD S05-9708-004).

After completing the site reconnaissance at approximately 1600 hours, START was informed that CDOE had contacted a contractor assigned to board up the building's windows and front door. U.S. EPA OSC Faryan suggested that U.S. EPA's emergency authority could be invoked to speed up response time. At 1615 hours, CDOE was informed that a contractor would be on site in approximately one hour.

At 1630 hours, U.S. EPA OSC Rivera and MWRD Yarnik agreed to perform a more detailed site assessment, including sampling of the vats and drums, on August 4, 1997. It was also agreed that START would pick up a copy of the MPF blueprints and other site file information on August 4, 1997.

At 1700 hours, U.S. EPA, CDOE, MWRD, and START determined that the immediate site emergency had ended. However, because the board-up contractor had not arrived on site to secure the building, the involved parties would not leave the site until it had been secured for the weekend.

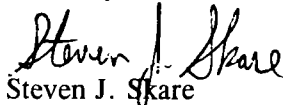
U.S. EPA OSC Rivera departed the site at 1815 hours, after being notified that the board-up

contractor had been delayed at another job site. START Skare and CDOE Schussler remained on site to await the contractor after START Robin departed at 1830 hours.

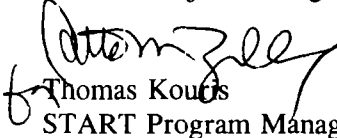
At 1915 hours, Arrow Board-up Company, the contractor hired by CDOE, arrived on site to secure the building. Plywood, in conjunction with 2 x 4 boards, were used to cover the windows and doors to prevent unauthorized access. START Skare and CDOE Schussler departed the site after the building was secured.

The preparation of this Letter Report serves as the final deliverable for this TDD. Please contact this office should any additional information on this site be needed.

Sincerely,



Steven J. Skare  
START Project Manager

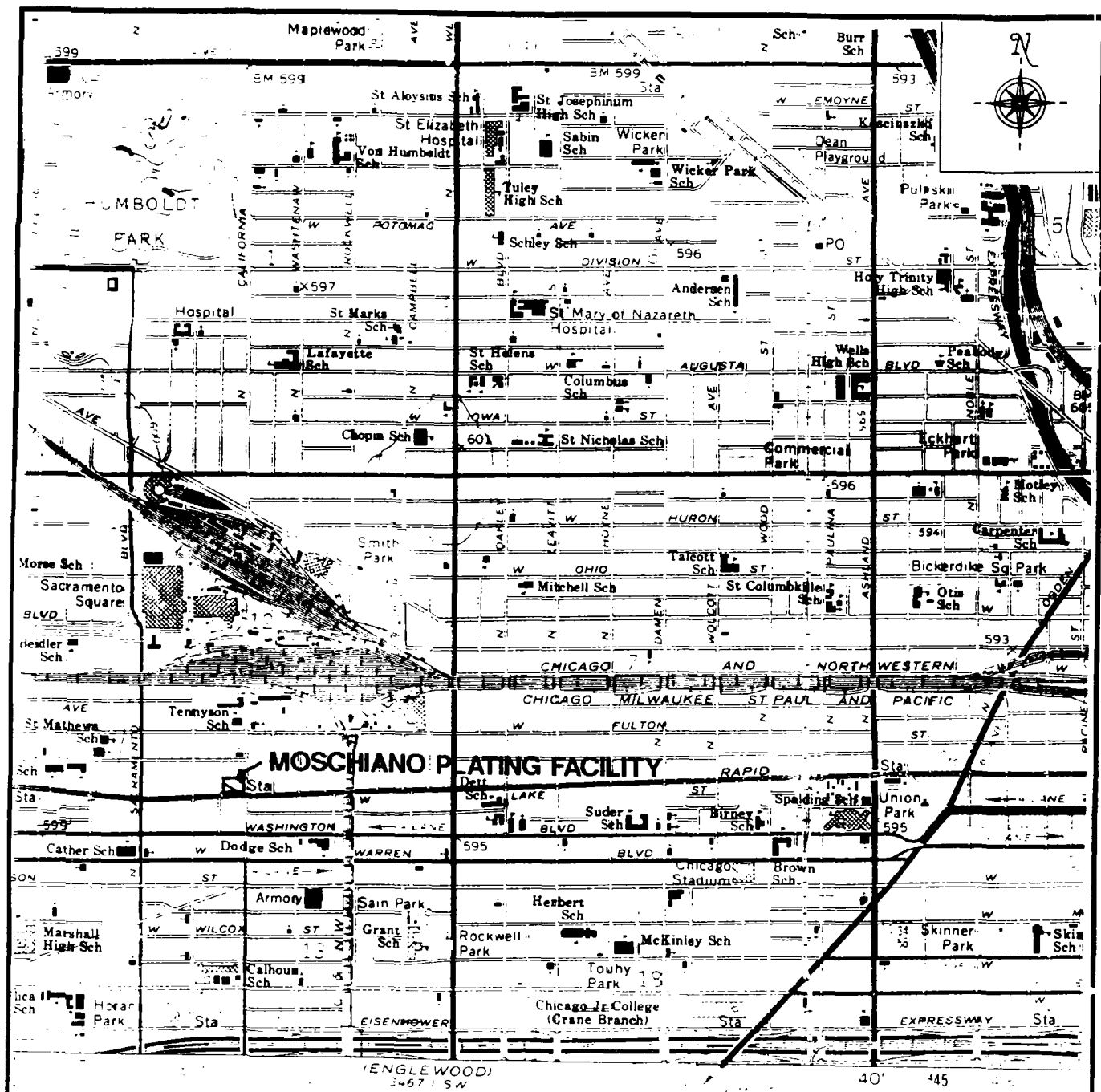


Thomas Kouris  
START Program Manager

Attachments: Figure 1 - Site Location Map  
Figure 2 - Building Layout Map

cc: Rey Rivera, U.S. EPA OSC  
START TDD site file

**Figure 1**  
**Site Location Map**



Quadrangle Location



**ecology and environment, inc.**

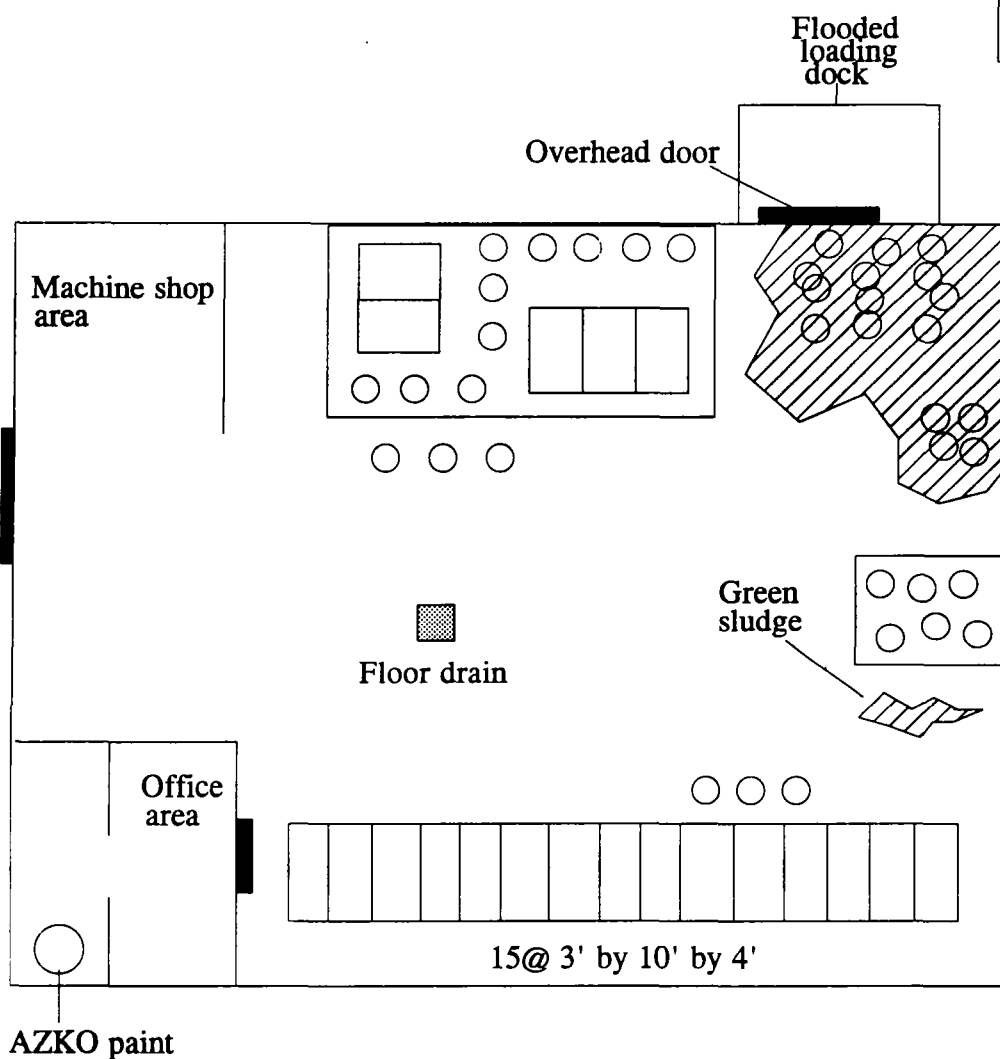
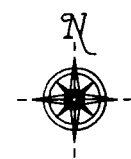
Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team

Region 5





33 North Dearborn Street, Suite 900, Chicago, Illinois 60602

TITLE	Site Location Map	FIGURE #	1
SITE	Moschiano Plating Facility	SCALE	1:24,000
CITY	Chicago	TDD #	S05-9708-003
STATE	Illinois		
USGS 7.5 Minute Topographic Series		1962	
Chicago Loop Quadrangle, IL		REVISED	1978

**Figure 2**  
**Building Layout Map**



### Legend

-  Drum
-  Vat
-  Roof cave-in/  
wet floor
-  Door



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TITLE <b>Building Layout Map</b>		FIGURE # <b>2</b>
SITE <b>Moschiano Plating Facility</b>		SCALE <b>Not to scale</b>
CITY <b>Chicago</b>	STATE <b>Illinois</b>	TDD # <b>S05-9708-003</b>
SOURCE <b>Ecology &amp; Environment, Inc.</b>		DATE <b>1997</b>
		REVISED <b>N/A</b>